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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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MINERALS PROGRAM
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MAR 07 1990

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

March 5, 1990

Ken A. Kluksdahl
Tenneco Minerals
P.O. Box 2650
955 North 1300 West #4
St. George, Utah 84770

Re: Solution Breach
Goldstrike Mine

Dear Mr. Kluksdahl:

We have received your letter dated February 26, 1990 reporting a process solution spill. A breach occurred in leach cell No. 7 on February 21, 1990. The breach was caused by failure of a 6 inch distribution pipe and cap. Approximately 8,000 gallons of cyanide solution flowed down the slope face of the heap and onto the abandoned conveyor belt access ramp. The bulk of the volume was collected at the belt underpass. The solutions were immediately neutralized with 8 lbs of calcium hypochlorite, scooped up and placed upon the leach pad. The ramp area was bermed to prevent such releases in the future.

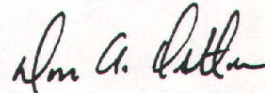
Actions taken are believed to be appropriate for this particular situation. In the future, appropriate (soil, water, etc.) samples in the area must be taken and analyzed for cyanide contamination. Results of such analyses and basis of reagents used for mitigation of spills must be forwarded to us for our review and information. We appreciate your quick response and report to us on this matter. We suggest that the remaining distribution piping be inspected to prevent the recurrence of such events.

In accordance with federal laws and regulations, please also note that any spill of more than 10 pounds of sodium cyanide must be immediately reported to: The National Response Center 1 (800) 424-8502, The Local Emergency Planning Committee (Five County AOG) 673-3548, and The State Health Department 538-6333.

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A follow-up written report is also required to be sent as soon as possible after the event to the same three agencies. For more detail on what should be included in the written report as well as other requirements of the "Engineering Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act" please contact Neil Taylor at 538-6121.

Sincerely,



Don A. Ostler, P.E., Director
Bureau of Water Pollution Control

LWS:rvg

cc: Mr. Wayne Thomas, Southwest District Health Department
Mr. Bill Dawson, Southwest District Health Department
Mr. Wayne Hedberg, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
U.S. EPA, Region VIII

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